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Chairman: Mr. Hart (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Barbados)

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In the absence of Mr. Wali (Nigeria), Mr. Hart (Barbados), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 2.50 p.m.

Agenda item 52: Macroeconomic policy questions *(continued)*

(a) International trade and development *(continued)* (A/60/225, AS/60/226, A/60/15 (Parts I-IV))

1. **Mr. Duong Hoai Nam** (Viet Nam) said that his delegation welcomed and supported The Spirit of São Paulo and the São Paulo Consensus adopted at the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Political will and a positive spirit of cooperation between developed and developing countries would be needed to achieve the common objectives outlined in those two documents, particularly in the areas of agriculture and non-agricultural market access, services and terms of accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). It was therefore troubling to note, in the report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development (A/60/225) that little progress had been achieved in the substantive negotiations and in meeting the development objectives of the Doha Round.

2. Distortions in the world agricultural market continued to undermine the ability of agricultural sectors in developing countries to contribute meaningfully to sustained economic development and poverty alleviation. His delegation therefore welcomed the Doha Plan of Action adopted at the Second South Summit, and was encouraged that the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly had called for the termination, by a specific date, of all forms of export subsidies on all products, the elimination of trade barriers and the opening of markets as a means for developing countries to unlock the full potential of their agricultural sectors, and to improve food security and the welfare of their people.

3. WTO members should address issues and concerns raised by developing countries regarding their difficulties in acceding to WTO, and in implementing some of its agreements and decisions. The liberalization and reform measures demanded of acceding developing countries went far beyond the commitments outlined in existing WTO agreements or undertaken by current WTO members at similar levels of development. More than ever, it was crucial to accord developing countries special and differential treatment in order to help them address their financial and trade needs.

4. The Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference would offer an opportunity to correct existing anomalies in the global trading system to ensure fair and equitable terms of accession, commensurate with the trade, financial and development needs of acceding developing countries; and to address specific needs of acceding and newly acceded countries in the Doha work programme negotiations. To that end, the United Nations, particularly UNCTAD, and other stakeholders should support developing countries in their efforts to integrate into the international trading system and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

5. **Mr. Siv** (United States of America) said that his country was firmly committed to trade liberalization and economic development throughout the world. However, trade alone was not enough to generate economic growth. Good governance was essential for sustainable development and was the foundation on which trade could build in order to improve economic prosperity. The WTO Ministerial Meeting would be an important step towards the goal of completing the negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda by the end of 2006. A successful conclusion to those negotiations could lift as many as 500 million people out of poverty and add $200 billion annually to developing country economies. The deliberations in the General Assembly must not adversely affect the Doha negotiations. Previous WTO declarations and decisions must not be construed in any manner that would attempt to prejudge the outcome of the WTO negotiations.

6. WTO was the unique forum for global trade rule-making and liberalization. At the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, his delegation had opposed the resolution on the agenda item under consideration because it had contained text that attempted to prejudge WTO negotiations. The negotiations at the current session should give momentum to trade liberalization while respecting the independent mandate of WTO.

7. **Mr. Karanja** (Kenya) said that many developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa continued to face difficulties in trade expansion and integration into world trade and blamed their poor performance on the

continued use of various tariff and non-tariff barriers, such as subsidies, by developed countries. The developing countries hoped for an expeditious conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda. The Millennium Declaration, which reflected the political will lacking in the Doha negotiations, should be exploited to create a rule-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and bring the Doha Development Agenda to a successful conclusion.

8. His delegation commended UNCTAD for its activities to follow up the WTO General Council decision of 1 August 2004 (July package), including the organization of a symposium on the Doha work programme in February 2005 for the Kenya National Committee on WTO and its participation in a technical workshop organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union in Tunis in November 2004. It called on UNCTAD to continue providing and strengthening trade and trade-related capacity-building efforts for African countries.

9. Kenya welcomed the recent developments in the multilateral trade negotiations, particularly the evolving international consensus that the Doha Round should be concluded by the end of 2006. It also noted and appreciated the intensification of discussions, particularly on technical issues, since the adoption of the July package, with a view to establishing modalities in agriculture and non-agricultural market access and taking major decisions in such areas as trade, services, trade facilitation and development issues before the December Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong.

10. While it was regrettable that the modalities on technical issues could not be completed by July 2005, his delegation welcomed the growing efforts at consensus-building on key issues, and the political impetus injected into the negotiations by the mini-ministerial conferences held in Kenya, China, France and Switzerland.

11. Political will and guidance would be more necessary than ever in the sensitive and complex agricultural negotiations on the conversion of non-ad valorem tariffs into ad valorem equivalents. The methodology finally adopted must increase market access for developing countries without any adverse effects on the non-reciprocal preferences they enjoyed under existing arrangements. It would be useful to establish timetables during the Doha Round for the total elimination of export subsidies or domestic support measures by developed countries. The Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference should take decisions on all issues under negotiation, so that the Doha Development Agenda would be realized by 2006.

12. The improvements in commodity prices in 2003 and 2004, particularly in Africa and Latin America, had been insignificant in the larger context of deteriorating terms of trade and other variables. The commodities trade crisis should be considered within the agricultural framework, including tariff escalation, temporary protection of preference margins and elimination of non-tariff barriers. Kenya also supported the establishment of an export enhancement fund to assist commodity-dependent developing countries in building the institutions and infrastructure necessary to address supply-side constraints. In that connection, it fully supported the financing and implementation of the International Task Force on Commodities launched at the eleventh session of UNCTAD. The Common Fund for Commodities, in particular the Second Account, must also be strengthened.

13. With the phenomenal growth of South-South trade, largely as a result of regional and subregional integration arrangements, trade barriers among developing countries must be eliminated as well. Trade within regional groupings also encouraged cooperation in other areas, for example, the establishment of a Customs Union among the East African Community members and the issuance of regional passports that facilitated labour mobility within the region. About 40 per cent of Kenyan exports now went to members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

14. His delegation welcomed the negotiation of an economic partnership agreement between the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group and the European Union, aimed at creating an economic relationship based on reciprocity rather than unilateral preferences. Such a partnership would strengthen regional economic integration as a means of attracting international private investment. In that context, there was a need for positive interface and coherence between multilateralism and regionalism, and a meaningful outcome of the Doha work programme. Kenya urged the institutions concerned, particularly UNCTAD, to redouble their efforts to foster cooperation among developing countries and to ensure a meaningful outcome of the third round of negotiations of the

Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries, to be completed by November 2006.

15. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries (A/60/226), he said that sanctions could have profound effects not only on the target countries but also on neighbouring countries and other trading partners. Sanctions should be imposed only in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and only after all means of pacific settlement of disputes under Chapter VI had been exhausted. A thorough study of their short- and long-term effects should be undertaken. Sanctions must be clearly defined and lifted as soon as their objective was achieved. They should be imposed for a specified time only, and the justification for imposing them should be defined and subject to periodic review. Any attempt to prolong the application of sanctions for reasons other than those specified must be rejected. Lastly, Kenya recommended establishing a mechanism and/or fund under Article 50 of the Charter to provide relief to third States affected by the imposition of sanctions.

16. **Mr. Gerus** (Belarus) said that building trade, and especially the export capacity, of developing countries and countries with economies in transition was the best way to free them from dependence on international financial assistance, but that tool was not being used sufficiently effectively. At the World Summit, the international community had been unable to include in the Outcome a number of important provisions on the development of international trade and trade liberalization, especially with regard to implementation of the provisions of the Doha Agenda relating to development assistance. It was to be hoped that the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference would become a successful stage in completion of the Doha Round, making it possible to raise the export potential of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It would also be advisable to accelerate the WTO accession process for developing countries and countries with economies in transition under fair conditions.

17. Accession to WTO was part of his country's sustainable development strategy and one of the priorities of its external economic policy. Unfortunately, countries seeking accession to WTO were still being subjected to requirements, involving broad liberalization and the assumption of greater and discriminatory obligations in the area of economic reforms, in addition to the existing requirements, that exceeded the concessions and obligations assumed by existing members at similar levels of development. Belarus did not agree with such an approach. Obligations proposed in the WTO accession process must match the economic capacities of States and enable them in future to derive real benefits from participation in the multilateral trade system. Organizations of the United Nations system, especially UNCTAD, had the necessary competence and experience to help the developing countries and countries with economies in transition to integrate into the multilateral trade system on acceptable conditions which took into account their national specificities and development needs.

18. Belarus reiterated its firm position with regard to the inadmissibility of the use or threat of use of a trade preferences mechanism by developed countries as an instrument for exerting political pressure on sovereign States. That ran counter to the principles of constructing a multilateral trade system stated in the Outcome of the World Summit, and was incompatible with States' aspirations to expedite the process of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

19. **Mr. Gunasekera** (Sri Lanka) said that, in practice, lowering trade barriers and opening markets did not necessarily generate development. Rich countries and large corporations dominated the global marketplace and created very unequal relations of power and information. He drew attention to a number of provisions of General Assembly resolution 59/221 underscoring the importance of addressing the concerns of the least developed countries, in particular commodity-dependent developing countries, and emphasizing that issues related to trade, debt and finance and transfer of technology should be addressed as a high priority in accordance with the Doha work programme and the WTO General Council decision of 1 August 2004.

20. In the context of multilateral trade negotiations, his country was particularly concerned about the phasing out of quotas under the Agreement on Trade in Textile Products. The issues of the Doha Round that were of primary interest for developing countries related to the establishment and the assumption of new treaty obligations that could affect their ability to adopt and implement policies required to pursue their development needs and aspirations. The most critical

issue on the Doha Agenda was negotiations on trade and agriculture, and agreement in that area was probably essential to progress in other ongoing negotiations and discussions.

21. Developing countries also wanted improved access to the markets of developed countries, which required the reduction of tariff peaks and the elimination of tariff escalation, particularly for agricultural exports and processed food exports. Moreover, there was evidence that the level of protection for certain agricultural products currently was no lower than it had been at the beginning of the Uruguay Round. Failure to address those issues would jeopardize the potential of the agricultural sector of developing countries and their efforts to diversify production and exports. Certain elements in the proposal to establish a "development box" put forward by a number of developing and least developed countries, including his own, had been accepted, thereby allowing those countries to adopt trade measures targeting small farmers, with a view to promoting rural development and food security. The outcome of the Doha Round would have a long-term impact on livelihoods in poor communities, particularly where agriculture was the dominant economic sector. He cited statistics illustrating how dependent his country was on activities related to agriculture and livestock and said that providing greater security for the rural masses would facilitate more equitable development for the country as a whole.

22. Although the negotiations on agriculture had received considerable political attention and provided guidance to inform the discussions, progress in that area had not been significant. The Doha Round therefore should focus on the special and differential treatment developing countries required to meet their basic survival needs, in all their aspects.

23. **Ms. Bauzán de Senes** (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the member countries of MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the associated States (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), said that in recent years South-South trade cooperation had been steadily increasing. The Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries, the third round of which would conclude in November 2006, was one example of such cooperation.

24. The MERCOSUR countries and associated States were striving to achieve successful integration into the global economy. The efforts made by the individual countries required a favourable international environment, including an open and equitable multilateral trading system that was rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory and in which development was a key objective. In the context of the Doha Round, the WTO Ministerial Conference should consider the specific problems of small and vulnerable economies with a view to ensuring their fuller integration into the multilateral trading system.

25. It was also important to seek progress in other areas. The members and associated States of MERCOSUR had made progress towards energy integration in the region, a process which had direct consequences for their trading capacity. Physical interconnection was another factor that promoted development and strengthened trade ties. MERCOSUR and its associated States were pursuing that goal through programmes such as the initiative for the integration of regional infrastructure in South America, the central bi-oceanic corridor linking Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay; the bi-oceanic corridor for infrastructure and energy integration; and the subregional energy integration market of the Andean Community.

26. Agriculture continued to be the focus of the negotiations in the Doha Round, since it was the sector that was most affected by the distorting policies pursued by the developed countries. Whether or not the Doha Round could be concluded successfully by the end of 2006 would depend on the results achieved regarding agriculture. The members and associated States of MERCOSUR were determined to pursue their ambitious objective in agriculture, which included achieving substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic subsidies, substantial improvements in market access and the reduction and eventual elimination of all forms of export subsidies.

27. The developed countries should honour their commitments to implement the reforms agreed in the Doha Round. With the Hong Kong meeting only six weeks away, the members and associated States of MERCOSUR urged the developed countries to adopt a constructive attitude so as to ensure that the serious imbalances and injustices of the international trading system would be eliminated. United Nations resolutions on trade should reflect the need for clear

progress in the trade negotiations so as to arrive at a system of international trade that was more equitable, open and inclusive.

28. **Mr. Tekalegn** (Ethiopia) said that the share of global trade of many low-income countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, was at best stagnating and at worst deteriorating; if that trend persisted, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals was at risk, in spite of the availability of additional development finance through debt relief and increased ODA. His delegation therefore attached great importance to trade-related efforts to assist least developed countries in achieving their targets based on the Millennium Development Goals.

29. Ethiopia welcomed the World Summit Outcome commitment to ensuring the full participation of low-income countries in the world trading system and to supporting the development of the productive and trading capacities of developing countries. The removal of supply-side constraints would enable the least developed countries to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization, but further actions were needed in that regard, one of which was the creation of an "Aid for Trade Fund", as called for at the Third Least Developed Countries Ministers' Meeting, held in Livingstone, Zambia, in June 2005. Ethiopia welcomed the fact that that initiative had been endorsed at the recent meeting of the Development Committee of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

30. Ethiopia also welcomed the agreement reached at the World Summit to support commodity-dependent countries. It had taken important steps to improve its trade policies, legal and regulatory environments, trade facilities and trade-based institutions, and was also playing an active role in regional integration negotiations and processes. Its application for accession to WTO was a strong signal of its commitment to abide by international rules and obligations. Ethiopia called on existing WTO members to give due consideration to the Guidelines on Accession of Least Developed Countries, which called for fair and equitable terms of accession. It was Ethiopia's fervent hope that the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference would take a step towards ensuring that trade played its role as an engine of growth.

31. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that, in order to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action, the current round of WTO negotiations on market access for agricultural and non-agricultural goods should give special attention to products of special interest to landlocked developing countries. Equally critical was the timely and balanced conclusion of the Doha work programme on small economies, as called for in the São Paulo Consensus and General Assembly resolution 59/245. The Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference should contribute significantly to that goal.

32. In order to prepare effectively for multilateral trade negotiations, the first Meeting of Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries Responsible for Trade, held in Asunción, Paraguay, from 8 to 10 August 2005, had adopted the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round. That strategy would serve as a compass for the Group's participation in the trade round. The Group of Landlocked Developing Countries urged all donors and international organizations to provide well-coordinated financial and technical assistance to all landlocked developing countries, taking into account their specific difficulties and needs. A fair multilateral trading system should be open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory and development-oriented. It should be an integral part of the global financial and monetary system, so as to foster interaction and ensure consistency in policies on trade and global finance. The international community should take appropriate measures to improve access for the landlocked developing countries to trade financing, protect them from the adverse impact of trade liberalization or commodity price volatility and reduce their transport and transit costs.

33. The Group appreciated the support and assistance rendered by all donors and the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and UNCTAD. They hoped that such assistance would be increased in order to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Asunción Platform. To that end, they emphasized the need to strengthen the Office and UNCTAD so as to enable them to carry out

their mandates in the service of landlocked developing countries.

34. **Mr. Bharati** (Nepal) said that, if trade was to be a catalyst for meeting the development needs of the least developed countries, those countries should receive preferential treatment on the international market. The needs and concerns of least developed countries and landlocked developing countries must be taken into account in the Doha Development Round of WTO negotiations.

35. Nepal had become a member of WTO following a lengthy negotiation process. New members of WTO needed assistance with managing trade adjustment costs, strengthening competitiveness and ensuring fulfilment of promises. They must have international support, including technical assistance for infrastructure development, institutional capacity-building and trade diversification. Their products should be offered duty-free, quota-free and unhindered access to other markets. The labour force from less developed countries and landlocked developing countries should be allowed to move freely to the industrialized world, as free movement of labour was a crucial element of fair trade.

36. His delegation welcomed the concept of "Aid for Trade", as well as the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance for Least Developed Countries and the Brussels Programme of Action. It was encouraged that the international community had recognized the special needs of landlocked developing countries in the Almaty Programme of Action and that the need for trade facilitation and enhanced technical cooperation for landlocked developing countries had been stressed in the Asunción Platform.

37. His Government had given top priority to building infrastructure, including north-south highways, in order to develop Nepal as a transit economy between China and India and thus contribute to facilitating trade between those two countries. The Government of Nepal was encouraging the private sector to assume a leadership role in promoting trade, providing employment opportunities and generating investment. To that end, it was continuing privatization and financial sector reforms and encouraging a public-private partnership in infrastructure development.

38. **Mr. Aristov** (Russian Federation) said that the international trading system was still far from perfect and that its existing rules needed to be improved on the basis of stable, predictable and non-discriminatory access to world markets for the goods and services of all participants.

39. International trade operated as a dynamic, constructive factor contributing to development and poverty reduction; its expansion on a more just and equitable basis would create additional opportunities for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Russian Federation had noted with great satisfaction the 2005 Summit Outcome on the importance of the universal, rule-based integration of all States into the global trading system and on accelerating and facilitating accession to WTO in accordance with the established rules.

40. The Russian Federation was taking steps to achieve certain benchmark indicators within the Millennium Development Goals, gradually shedding the role of recipient of international development assistance and concentrating on achieving the Millennium Development Goals within the country on the basis of its own resources. At the same time, within the Group of Eight, the Russian Federation was making efforts to increase its contribution to international assistance programmes and international development initiatives, focusing on the reduction or total elimination of the debt of the poorest countries, chiefly in Africa. The Russian Federation was also providing multifaceted official assistance to many countries, including its partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States, and had recently been taking active steps to increase its donor potential.

41. The Russian Federation had become an integral part of the world economic system and it supported consistent implementation of a liberal, open and predictable trade policy. It was ready to play an active part in multilateral WTO negotiations and was confident that its full participation in reaching agreement on implementation of final Doha Round arrangements would meet the interests of all WTO member States. Further liberalization of international trade must take into account the economic realities and requirements of various countries or groups of countries, in order to extend the advantages of globalization and trade liberalization to all participants in world trade and avoid worsening the situation of national producers. Opportunities existed for a further opening up in many areas of interest to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in terms of their exports. As a matter of principle,

Russian goods and services should have at least non-discriminatory access to external markets.

42. New WTO members should not be required in the accession process to undertake commitments that went beyond the organization's standard set of obligations. Accession countries were being compelled to undertake significantly greater obligations than the initial WTO members. They were being used as guinea pigs for the Doha Round rules which were still under discussion and had not yet become obligatory for all WTO members. The Russian Federation was concerned about how the Hong Kong agreements would impact on its negotiations and future membership in WTO.

43. The Russian Federation was genuinely contributing to the liberalization of international trade by reducing its import duties and applying a special preferential regime to imports from many developing countries, chiefly the least developed countries. No quotas or anti-dumping, countervailing or special protective measures were applied to imports from the least developed countries.

44. The decisions to be taken during the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference must be consistent with the letter and spirit of the Doha Development Agenda and the São Paulo consensus. It was necessary to ensure that the interests of WTO member States as well as countries acceding to WTO were taken into account.

45. **Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan) said that the current multilateral trade negotiations had reached a critical juncture and that the international community had a unique opportunity to fulfil the promised development dimension of the Doha work programme. However, the record of the negotiations in recent months was not promising. Although a framework agreement for negotiations on agriculture had been adopted, its elaboration was proving difficult and its development content was uncertain. Proposals for framework agreements in other areas sought to impose rapid liberalization on the developing countries without regard to their capacity to compete. Operationalization of provisions and promises related to special and differential treatment continued to be delayed and deflected, and there was resistance to correcting the anti-development implications of certain previous agreements, such as the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). The multilateral trading system and the most-favoured-nation principle continued to be eroded by regional trade arrangements and preferential systems, and new protectionist trends were emerging in some of the largest economies.

46. Although deadlocks had affected earlier multilateral trade negotiations, the situation was more serious and divisions were more profound in the current impasse. A failure in Hong Kong would unmistakably question the need, utility and credibility of the multilateral trading system and the multilateral trade negotiation process. The General Assembly must send a strong message to the Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong calling for an early and genuinely development-oriented Doha Round. The Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong should reach agreements responding to the interests of developing countries, including the following: an agreement on the end date for agriculture export subsidies, including cotton subsidies, and a clear commitment to end all other support measures by the developed countries; an agreement on the tariff-cutting formula for non-agricultural goods that would lead, inter alia, to early termination of tariff peaks and tariff escalation against the exports of developing countries; a moratorium on the use of anti-dumping actions against low-income countries; a commitment to the liberalization of labour services; an end to arbitrary and abusive use of sanitary and phytosanitary standards and similar measures to restrain exports of low-income countries; and the implementation of the special and differential provisions of existing WTO agreements.

47. Other initiatives that must be pursued urgently were: the creation of a trade capacity-building fund; the creation of a mechanism, perhaps with private sector participation, for the stabilization of commodity prices; and a review by both WTO and the World Intellectual Property Organization of the development dimension of the global intellectual property regime.

48. With regard to trade capacity-building, the emphasis in the case of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States should be on building their productive capacities, compensating them for the erosion of trade preferences and the decline in terms of trade and giving them the policy space to pursue development-oriented agricultural and industrial policies.

49. His country remained committed to the successful conclusion of the Doha Round. It had recently hosted a

Group of Twenty Ministerial Meeting which had taken stock of negotiations on agriculture and had advanced proposals to resolve the impasse on the subject, and had also made a number of proposals to facilitate trade.

50. **Mr. Al-Athba** (Qatar) said that his delegation hoped that the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Hong Kong in December 2005, would conclude a comprehensive agreement on issues of vital importance to developing countries, and evaluate the progress made since the Doha Conference. It should also produce a trade agreement emphasizing the importance of a transparent and fair trade regime that helped to promote development and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

51. Trade negotiations should focus on opening up multilateral trade so as to benefit developing countries by removing trade and customs barriers and all other forms of protectionism that prevented them from gaining access to markets in developed countries. To that end, developing countries should also be involved in setting environmental, health and safety standards for the goods that they exported to developed countries.

52. The Hong Kong Conference should send a powerful message about the need to emphasize the development dimension in trade negotiations and aim at bringing the Doha Round to a conclusion in 2006. It should address the issues of ending subsidies on agricultural products and allowing the least developed countries access to markets in accordance with the commitments made at Doha and elsewhere. Particular attention should be paid to the problem of market volatility and price fluctuations, which prevented most developing countries from achieving sustainable development. In addition, the issue of better protection of intellectual property rights in developing countries should be addressed.

53. **Mr. Fasehun** (Director, World Intellectual Property Organization Coordination Office at the United Nations) said that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) made available to developing countries that were not member States of WIPO the same legal technical assistance relating to TRIPS as was provided to developing country members of WIPO. The organization helped developing countries and countries in transition build intellectual property systems that were in line with national development objectives, and focused on creating indigenous capacity to meet future challenges. It also promoted linkages among civil society, the private sector and government.

54. A key aspect of the work of WIPO involved providing advice, at the request of countries, on the compatibility of national legislation with international intellectual property agreements. It also provided training with regard to the implementation of such agreements and supported efforts by developing countries to exchange experience on implementation. He described activities in which WIPO was engaged in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean to help countries develop and use the intellectual property system for development.

55. WIPO also provided advisory services to the least developed countries as they prepared to implement the TRIPS Agreement by 1 January 2006, and those countries had taken advantage of other WIPO services within their regions.

56. The member States of WIPO had agreed to establish a provisional committee to accelerate and complete discussions on proposals relating to a WIPO development agenda. The organization was committed to creating an inclusive intellectual property regime from which all States would benefit and through which they could achieve sustainable development.

57. **Mr. Bhagwat-Singh** (Observer for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)) said that the International Union supported the consensus that trade was not an end in itself but a means to generate a better quality of life through poverty reduction and sustainable development.

58. Considerable work remained to be done in order to achieve millennium development goal 7, on environmental sustainability. Issues of concern to IUCN in the context of current developments in the multilateral trading system included the need to reform, and ultimately remove, subsidies that harmed the environment and hampered trade, notably in the areas of agriculture and fisheries. It was also necessary to develop appropriate trade policy measures to reduce the spread through trade of invasive alien species and other environmental hazards.

59. With respect to the rapid development of biotechnology, intellectual property must be protected in order to provide fair rewards for innovation and

risk-taking without infringing on access to resources by traditional users. It was also important to encourage the conservation of biological resources in the countries and communities that harboured them, and adequate compensation should be provided when such resources were used in a sustainable manner. The relationship between TRIPS and the Convention on Biological Diversity had yet to be clarified; recent proposals regarding mandatory disclosure by patent applicants of the source of genetic material and of benefit-sharing arrangements could be part of the solution.

60. IUCN recognized that developing countries and countries in transition needed help to upgrade their production practices and strengthen regulatory measures in order to meet the increasingly stringent environmental standards of major consumer markets.

61. Environmental governance must be strengthened so that governments could respond when changing patterns and volumes of trade threatened environmental integrity. Strategic environmental assessments of proposed trade policy reforms should be undertaken in order to anticipate and mitigate potential adverse impacts.

62. **Mr. Rapota** (Observer for the Eurasian Economic Community) said that, in the five years since the Eurasian Economic Community had been established, most of its five member States had achieved growth in the basic macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP, industrial and agricultural output and freight shipment volume, as well as the stabilization of national currencies, increases in wages and pensions and a slowdown in rates of inflation. Uzbekistan had applied to join, and the member States of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization had taken the decision to integrate with the Community.

63. A free trade regime existed throughout the Community, and measures were currently being taken to move towards a customs union. The long-term objective was the establishment of economic and monetary union. Negotiations were under way for the accession of all Community member States to WTO; the Kyrgyz Republic was already a member. The Community fully supported the decisions of the 2005 World Summit to accelerate and facilitate accession to WTO of countries with economies in transition. The basic assumption was that member States of the Community were ready to assume obligations that reflected their levels of economic development, took account of their structural characteristics and were consistent with the level of obligations assumed by other WTO members. Technical assistance to them in the negotiation process was also important.

64. He referred to a number of important investment projects being implemented within the Community which would bring about substantial changes in the economic and social development of its member States, including the construction of hydroelectric power plants, agreements in the transport and agro-industrial sectors, as well as in the social sphere and in terms of migration issues. Complex environmental issues were under discussion, such as the mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in Belarus, the elimination of uranium waste disposal sites in the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan, resolving the problems concerning the Aral Sea in the Republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in the Republic of Kazakhstan. All those projects and areas of activity were associated with large-scale, capital-intensive efforts which required substantial investments, and the Community was seeking support and assistance from the United Nations and its specialized agencies. A number of projects had already been carried out with the assistance of the United Nations but great coordination was required to enhance effectiveness and reduce implementation time. More active involvement was needed on the part of the international development institutions, chiefly the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

65. Acute external debt problems continued to beset a number of countries in Central Asia, and a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution was needed. The Community called for more intensive efforts to implement the Almaty Programme of Action.

66. The Eurasian Economic Community noted with satisfaction that the United Nations was taking a serious look at the situation in the countries of Central Asia and was reassessing its role in addressing their problems. The key areas for United Nations activities in the region were consistent with the priorities of the Community and included power generation, water resource management, the environment, transport and trade. The Community stood ready to engage in a dialogue with organizations of the United Nations system, regional economic commissions and specialized agencies. It had already made proposals

regarding the signing of relevant memoranda with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and UNDP, and hoped that they would receive a positive response.

67. **Ms. Puri** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said she had been very heartened by the support expressed for the Conference's continuing commitment to development, implementation of the São Paulo Consensus and the UNCTAD role in follow-up of the World Summit and other conferences. There had been a number of references to the Conference's technical cooperation and capacity-building role, and she particularly appreciated the pleas made for more resources to be made available to UNCTAD so that it could expand its work to meet increasing demands.

68. The Fifth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, to be held in Antalya, Turkey, in November 2005, would contribute to the broader issue of the competitiveness of developing countries.

69. A number of speakers had underlined the importance of the multilateral trading system, noting the predicted gains from a successful Doha Round and the need to address certain prerequisites and issues regarding process and substance. The stakes in the Doha negotiations were very high, and both statesmanship and political will were needed from all participants.

70. With regard to South-South trade, she said that UNCTAD had been working with a number of southern regional integration organizations, as well as interregionally. She mentioned in particular the third round of negotiations of the Global System of Trade Preferences Among Developing Countries. She also made reference to the very comprehensive UNCTAD programme on commodities, with the operationalization of its International Task Force on Commodities.

71. As for the agenda beyond the Doha Round, all speakers had recognized the importance of market access in achieving development gains, supply capacity and competitiveness, meeting adjustment costs arising from preference erosion and implementation of agreements. In that context, considerable importance had been given to the "Aid for Trade Fund".

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.